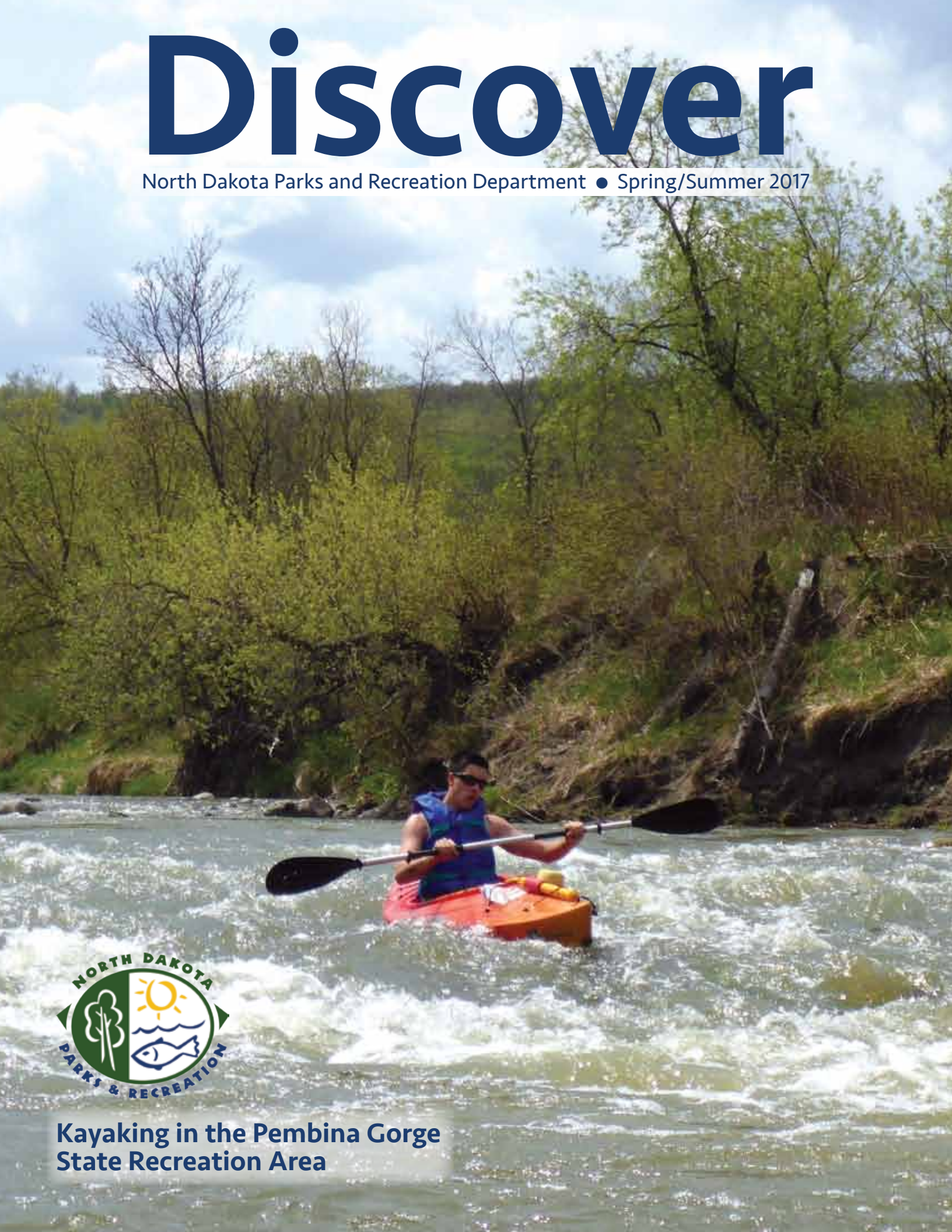


Discover

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department • Spring/Summer 2017



**Kayaking in the Pembina Gorge
State Recreation Area**

Director's Message

Governor Burgum's Main Street Initiative and the NDPRD

When Governor Burgum took office in December 2016, he brought his Main Street Initiative to state agencies. His message focuses on engagement, collaborative efforts and directing activities that contribute to the prosperity of healthy, vibrant communities and cities.

Our state parks, recreation areas and statewide grant programs are a good fit with the Governor's Main Street Initiative. In essence, our main streets are the highways that link local communities to parks. State parks and recreation areas are important components of the economic and social well-being of our population.

The following examples demonstrate how the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is prepared to meet the challenges presented by Governor Burgum:

- **Event Planning:** Fort Stevenson State Park and the community of Garrison's collaborative event planning contributes significantly to both the city and park. Special events such as Sky Fest, the region's best kite festival; Maple Sugaring, an interactive event to turn sap from boxelder trees into maple syrup; and the summer Beach Party and fishing tournaments have been developed with the common goal of attracting more visitors to the area.
- **Trail Development:** The Recreation Division's work with Save the Maah Daah Hey and the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association, along with the U.S. Forest Service, is leveraging North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund and Recreational Trails Program grants to renovate and restore approximately 20 miles of the Maah Daah Hey Trail (MDH) in western North Dakota. Working closely with the two volunteer groups and the U.S. Forest Service, the goal of revitalizing approximately 20 miles of the MDH Trail will become a reality. As a nationally recognized trail,

the MDH attracts enthusiasts from across the United States and internationally to Watford City, Medora, Dickinson, and Grassy Butte where they challenge themselves on the trail and enjoy the hospitality of North Dakota communities.

- **Grant Opportunities:** The Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails and North Dakota Community grants provide much needed cost-sharing recreation facility funding for city and county parks. A community with contemporary parks, playgrounds, trails, and water-based amenities has a leg up in attracting workforce families to take up residence.
- **Healthy Lifestyles:** Our state parks and recreation areas are great resources for anyone to experience a broad spectrum of outdoor activities. Opportunities for trails, kayak/canoe rentals, and cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals in a safe environment invigorate those who venture outdoors. First Day hikes, Wild Outdoor Women (WOW) weekends, National Trails Day celebrations, and Kids Day events in the state parks are all geared toward getting visitors outdoors and active.
- **Social Interaction:** The social benefits of families and friends in parks enjoying a beautiful sunset, bragging about who caught the biggest fish or who roasted the perfect marshmallow are measured in the bonds formed by outdoor recreation experiences.

Governor Burgum has set high standards and expectations for the future of the NDPRD. Our agency staff is looking forward to meeting the challenge. Join us by enjoying your state parks and recreation areas!

Melissa Baker, Director

Discover Spring/Summer 2017 Volume 22, Number 1

This magazine is published by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's facilities, programs and employment procedures are open to all, regardless of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion, national origin or political affiliation. Contact North Dakota Parks and Recreation if you need an alternate format of this publication.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Ave. Suite #3
Mailing Address: PO Box 5594, Bismarck, ND 58506-5594
Phone: 701.328.5357 email: parkrec@nd.gov
Website: www.parkrec.nd.gov



Table of Contents

New Director Named	1
Pembina Gorge Foundation.....	1
Missouri River Natural Area	2
Exhibit at Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.....	3
State Parks Host Special Events	4
Recreational Equipment Rentals	6
2017 Outdoor Challenge	7
NDPRD Awards	7
NDPRD Recognizes Staff	9
Snowmobile North Dakota Recap.....	9

New Director Named to the NDPRD

Melissa Baker was recently appointed by Governor Doug Burgum to lead the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD). Baker began her duties as director on April 24. Prior to her appointment, she was the assistant administrator and chief of operations for Montana State Parks, leading the work of regional park managers and all field-level staff within the 55-unit Montana park system. She also oversaw the system's planning, heritage, volunteer, AmeriCorps, and interpretation programs and directed the development of a statewide Heritage Resource Strategic Plan.

Baker previously worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as regional team supervisor of operations and visitor services at Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. She also was a professor of forest recreation in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and taught parks, recreation and tourism at the University of Maine. She earned a master's degree in outdoor recreation management from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and a doctorate in forestry from the University of Montana in Missoula.



Pembina Gorge Foundation Established

The Pembina Gorge Foundation (PGF) was incorporated as a nonprofit in January 2017. Its purpose is to preserve and enhance the experience of the Pembina Gorge while connecting people to positive, life-changing experiences and to develop and support historical, cultural, educational, natural and recreational opportunities, and other tourism assets and services.

The PGF was founded to ensure Frost Fire Ski Mountain & Amphitheater would remain open and become a permanent public amenity for northeastern North Dakota. The property provides a natural hub, allowing for an expanded visitor and heritage center with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD). "We couldn't have had a more perfect opportunity. This is a legacy project for North Dakota and the stars are certainly aligned. This purchase forms the foundation of a long-held community and regional dream of creating a

well-managed four season playground, perhaps an international destination with something for everyone," says Kristi (Mishler) Wilfahrt, co-founder of the PGF and project consultant.

The PGF Board of Directors has launched a Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Campaign. The campaign's goal is to raise \$3.1 million for the purchase of the Frost Fire property and Johnson home, which is located in the resort. The purchase, maintenance and improvements will require \$2.1 million, and \$1 million is for an endowment to support the long-term sustainability of the nonprofit and to provide scholarships so all people can enjoy the activities regardless of their ability to pay.

"Dick and I always dreamed of seeing the gorgeous Walhalla area improved and developed in such a way that it provides an enhanced recreational and trade area. The Pembina Gorge Foundation establishment was our hope to bring partners like the state parks, public donations and others together to help develop the Pembina Gorge. It's a natural extension for Frost Fire," says Judith Johnson on behalf of her and her late husband, Dick Johnson.

"The formation of the foundation and acquisition of Frost Fire are key to meeting objectives in the NDPRD's 2014 master plan," says Dawn Keeley, co-founder of the PGF and executive director of the Red River Regional Council. "The master plan lays out a framework to create a recreation destination like no other in North Dakota. The private-public partnership with NDPRD is truly unique. Through 2015 and 2016, we've been encouraging support of the development of the master plan. With the Frost Fire property purchase, we will be able to support seven key priorities within the SRA Master Plan, bringing the master plan to life."

For additional information, contact Keeley at 701-352-3550 or Wilfahrt at 701-317-6729 or Kristi.wilfahrt@outlook.com.



Missouri River Natural Area

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) owns, manages or partners with 17 little known natural or recreation areas across the state. This article is the first in a series that highlights these lesser known areas.

The Missouri River Natural Area offers visitors the opportunity to walk beneath the majestic cottonwoods and listen to the sound of the wind's soft rustling of the cottonwood leaves, accompanied by the distant tapping of a downy woodpecker and gentle "fee bee" of a nearby chickadee.

The Missouri River Natural Area's cottonwoods provide critical habitat for a diverse array of birds, mammals and amphibians. Creatures great and small have sought protective shelter under the cottonwoods. Thousands of spring and fall migrating birds seek this cottonwood corridor for both food and shelter. Bald eagles can often be seen perched on the bare-branched cottonwoods towering over the Missouri River.

The Missouri River Natural Area is a 157.37-acre day-use natural area located on the Morton County side of the Missouri River adjacent to the Grant Marsh Bridge and Interstate 94. A second parcel of the natural area is located between the Grant Marsh Bridge and the Burlington Northern Railway Bridge.

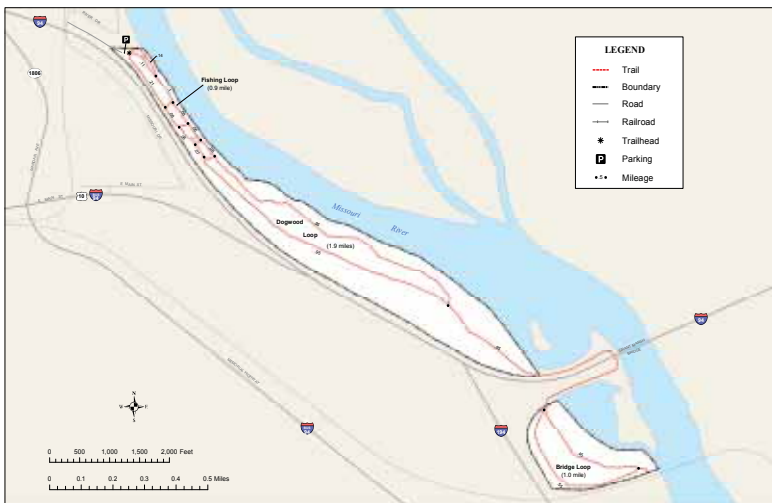
The natural area was acquired in the late 1960s under special federal funding to preserve and enhance a portion of the scenic Missouri River bottomlands. This natural area is owned by the North Dakota Department of Transportation and managed by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Morton County Parks and the City of Mandan. There are conservation covenants on the entire property that prohibit vehicular access, hunting or trapping, and development improvements. The major goal for the natural area is to preserve and protect the natural resources and provide a setting for the enjoyment of nature in its close proximity to urban development.

The floodplain forest consists of cottonwood, green ash, peach leaf, coyote willow, and buck brush. The riparian woodlands provide habitat to whitetail deer, fox, raccoon, squirrels, wild turkey, bald



eagles, Canada geese, owls, wood peckers, and a variety of song birds.

The Missouri River Natural Area has more than 4.89 miles of single track trail in a system of loops that has become very popular among walkers, hikers and runners. Although there is no boat access, shoreline fishing is also a popular activity in the natural area. In the winter, although the trails are not groomed, the natural area is a great place to cross country ski and snowshoe. Outdoor enthusiasts, bird watchers and photographers come to enjoy the solitude, abundant wildlife and scenery.



Michael Haynes Exhibit at Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Brings Expedition to Life

Lewis and Clark are the most famous outdoors people to ever set foot in North Dakota. The exploring, camping, hiking, boating, hunting, and fishing they did here prepared the way for millions who followed. Yet, hardly any images from their journey remain to document their adventures. Countless artists, most famously Charles Russell, have attempted to fill in the gaps. But no one has devoted as much time and attention to historical accuracy as Michael Haynes.

Brush Scholar: The Lewis & Clark Art of Michael Haynes is an exhibit at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn that celebrates this achievement. The exhibit features 19 original paintings and runs through June 25. Most pieces are in the permanent collection of the Interpretive Center, but a few are available for sale after the exhibit closes.

A watercolor artist based in Colorado, Haynes has spent decades researching the expedition. Often consulting with professional historians like Robert J. Moore of the National Park Service, Haynes examined such questions as what individual pieces of equipment or clothing would have looked like at various points on the journey, as well as visiting sites and gathering photos from the trail. Haynes and Moore's research resulted in the book *Tailor Made, Trail Worn*, which immediately became the go-to reference for museums, historians, parks, filmmakers, and reenactors recreating the looks of the expedition. Combined with his artistic skill and the precision made possible by his unique watercolor technique, Haynes created what are likely the most historically-accurate depictions of the expedition.

Because Haynes's work has been embraced by documentary filmmakers, museums, interpretive centers, and the National Park Service, it has had considerable influence. Before Haynes, most depictions of Lewis and Clark showed grizzled mountain men just struggling to get to the Pacific and back. Haynes showed they were a disciplined

When the Mandan discovered bison in their area, Chief Sheheke-Shote invited the expedition to join them in the hunt. This was considered a great act of friendship and generosity.



military unit, they were scientists documenting the West, and they were part of the Enlightenment.

Far more than just factual representations, the paintings are also beautiful. Haynes uses a very unusual variant of watercolor painting in which he builds up the image in alternating layers of paint and clear gesso. The result has the luminous effect of watercolor, but the fine detail normally associated with oils or acrylic.

The Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center hosts several art exhibits every year. *The Northern Plains National Heritage Area Suite*, a show by Minot expressionist painter Walter Piehl and other artists celebrating the history of the Northern Plains, is on exhibit through October 31.

Hometown Retrospective: Washburn Art Through the Years, running July 14 through November 30, will reveal Washburn's remarkable art legacy with works by several generations of artists. *The Prairie Plein Air Artists*, running July 22 through October 15 in the Fort Mandan Visitors Center, will feature works for sale made on the Fort's grounds at this year's Explorer Days June 3-4.



Packer Meadows illustrates the scientific work Lewis did on behalf of the expedition, in this case gathering botanical specimens that were new to western science.

Grizzly on the Missouri illustrates an incident near Great Falls, MT, in which Lewis survived a pursuit by a grizzly bear.



State Parks Host a Variety of Special Events

In 2016, North Dakota state parks saw a record number of campers and day-visitors with 22,760 reservations made for 55,671 camping nights. In-state reservations numbered 15,970, while out-of-state reservations totaled 6,790, with the majority of those reservations made through the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's (NDPRD) online reservation system. North Dakota state parks are ramping up for the upcoming 2017 season by hiring nearly 160 seasonal employees statewide to assist park visitors with camping, boating, hiking, fishing, and other available options.

Visitors can also attend the multitude of special events at the state parks this season, offering experiences ranging from fishing tournaments and beach parties to trail rides and hiking excursions. Here are just a few of the fun opportunities at the state parks.

National Trails Day Celebrations

Get ready to enjoy nature at one of the many events taking place across North Dakota for National Trails Day on June 3. This nationally recognized event is designed to get Americans on the trails and experiencing life, nature and the type of adventure that can only be found in the great outdoors!

Each North Dakota state park will host a unique National Trails Day event. "Every event will be different, from guided hikes to interpretive programs," says Recreation Division Manager Matt Gardner. "Each park will be providing an opportunity to go out and enjoy the variety of trails North Dakota has to offer."

National Trails Day is not just about the events at state parks, it is also meant to encourage everyone to enjoy their favorite trails in their own communities. North Dakota has thousands of miles of trails to explore, including the Maah Daah Hey Trail, a 144-mile single track trail that stretches across multiple counties in

western North Dakota, and the North Country National Scenic Trail, a 4,600-mile trail beginning at Lake Sakakawea State Park and ending in eastern New York.

For more details on each park's National Trails Day event, visit the NDPRD website at www.parkrec.nd.gov. Visit the American Hiking Society's webpage at <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org> for additional trail links and events taking place across North Dakota.

Beach Party at Fort Stevenson State Park

The annual Beach Party at Fort Stevenson State Park will take place August 26 at the de Trobriand Bay Marina. This annual event is a great way to celebrate the end of summer with family-friendly games and entertainment along with live music.

The Garrison Chamber of Commerce came up with the celebration as a way to bring locals and lake users together in appreciation of a great summer season. Activities range from bounce houses to carnival-style games. Children of all ages are welcome to participate in any and all games. This year, the Beach Party will feature two bands, new food items and more games for the kids.

"The Beach Party is safe family entertainment where little kids can play in the sand, big kids can dance in the sand and older folks can kick their



Kids of all ages enjoy the Beach Party.

shoes off and feel the warmth of the sand while enjoying great music, food and North Dakota's bright skies with the sound of Lake Sakakawea in the background," says Mike Matteson with the Garrison Chamber of Commerce.

Wristbands can be purchased the day of the event for \$10 that allow access to all inflatables and most games. All proceeds from the event go toward community improvement projects.

Fort Stevenson State Park is located south of Garrison on N.D. Highway 15. For more information, contact the park office at 701-337-5576, visit the community website at www.garrisonnd.com or follow the park on Facebook at www.facebook.com/prdfssp/.



The Beach Party celebrates the summer season with games and entertainment.

Music in Harmony Park

The second annual free Music in Harmony Park outdoor concert will take place July 14 at the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center (LCIC) in Washburn. The concert will start at 6 p.m. and feature North Dakota musicians including the McMahon Brothers, Greg Hager and Washburn area favorite, Cotton Wood.

Music in Harmony Park is a free event presented by the NDPRD in collaboration with the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Foundation. The event features a variety of family-friendly activities, including food concessions and inflatable games. There will also be free admission to the Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan as part of the LCIC's Visitor Appreciation Day. The Lewis & Clark Farmer's Market will be present, as well as every Friday during the summer, selling a variety of locally grown and sourced food.

New this year is *Hometown Retrospective*, an exhibit featuring artwork by several Washburn artists. The exhibit celebrates the longstanding role art has played in the community while continuing to promote and showcase local and regional artists. The exhibit opens July 14 and runs until the end of November.

The LCIC is located near Washburn, 38 miles north of Bismarck, on U.S. Highway 83. For more information call 701-462-8535 or visit www.FortMandan.com. Visit the NDPRD's website at www.parkrec.nd.gov for more upcoming LCIC events.

Wild Outdoor Women

In February, more than 30 women gathered at Lake Metigoshe State Park (LMSP) for a Wild Outdoor Women (WOW) event. The WOW event was primarily for women over the age of 16 interested in learning or improving skills on various recreational activities that included snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, darkhouse spearfishing, survival training, and geocaching. Sessions provided basic instruction from volunteer experts, use of related

equipment and time to do the activities.

WOW was created after the historical weekend-long Becoming an Outdoors Woman event, held at the park, shifted to day-long activities across the state to attract new participants and integrate additional recreation areas. LMSP wasn't ready to give up a weekend-long event that showcases their recreational opportunities, and the park is looking forward to hosting future fall and winter WOW events, with the next event taking place September 16-17.

"Such an event provides an excellent opportunity for participants to get a taste of the activities and build the confidence needed to safely enjoy the outdoors without having to buy equipment. They can factor their experience here into the decision as to whether or not they want to purchase their own gear and continue doing these activities on their own," says Amy Schimetz, WOW coordinator.

Registration information for upcoming WOW events will be posted



Cooking at the WOW event at LMSP.

at www.parkrec.nd.gov and to the Lake Metigoshe State Park Facebook page this summer. To receive WOW events information via email, contact aschimetz@nd.gov.



WOW events provide participants with the opportunity to learn new outdoor skills.

For more information or to see a full calendar of events, visit the NDPRD website at <http://bit.ly/NDPRD2017Events>. Special events calendars for each NDPRD location can be accessed on the left side of the webpage and through each park's Facebook page.

Recreational Equipment Rental Options at State Parks

Want to paddle board or fish this summer but don't want to buy the equipment? Many of North Dakota's state parks offer equipment rentals.

Canoes and Kayaks

Canoes and kayaks are a peaceful way to get out and explore. Currently canoe and/or kayak rentals are available at Lake Metigoshe, Lake Sakakawea, Fort Ransom, Cross Ranch, Fort Stevenson, Icelandic, and Lewis and Clark state parks, along with the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area. Life jackets and paddles are included in the rental fee. Canoe or kayak rentals are \$8/hour or \$50/day.

Paddle Boats

Take a self-paced, relaxing ride in a paddle boat. Paddle boats are available for rent at Fort Stevenson and Lake Sakakawea state parks. Paddle boat rentals are \$8/hour or \$50/day.

Stand-Up Paddle Boards

Try the latest craze! Self-propel with a paddle around the water while standing on a paddle board. It can be a total body workout. Stand-up paddle boards are available for rent at Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area and Lake Sakakawea, Icelandic and Fort Stevenson state parks. Stand-up paddle board rental is \$8/hour or \$50/day.

Fishing Boats and Pontoons

Spend the day fishing or floating around Lake Sakakawea in a fishing boat or pontoon. Fishing boats and a pontoon are available for rent at Fort Stevenson State Park. A 16-ft pontoon is \$295/day, a 16-ft boat is \$105/day, and a 17-ft fishing boat is \$115/day.

Fat-Tire Bikes

Take a trek through the parks on an off-road bike with over-sized tires. Fat-tire bikes are available at Fort Stevenson and Lake Sakakawea state parks for \$8/hour or \$50/day.



Transportation Available

A few state parks offer transportation for those who would like to take a scenic trip by kayak or canoe.

Cross Ranch State Park (CRSP) offers both long and short trips for visitors. Visitors can be dropped off at the Washburn Boat Ramp and paddle to CRSP, approximately 7 miles, or continue to the Sanger Boat Ramp, an additional 2 miles and separate from the main portion of the park.

Fort Ransom State Park (FRSP) also offers transportation for canoe and kayak down the Sheyenne River. Visitors are launched from FRSP and picked up in Fort Ransom. The trip is 5 miles.

Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area offers transportation so visitors can enjoy more of the Pembina River. A trip from the Brick Mine Bridge to Walhalla is approximately 7.5 miles. Visitors can also take a trip from Vang Bridge to the Brick Mine Bridge, which is roughly 3.5 miles, or to Walhalla, which is approximately 11 miles. Most years, the best paddling is done in late May and June.

Trips down the rivers vary through the paddling season. In faster flow times, plan on spending between 1 to 4 hours on the river, depending on your starting and ending points. During slower flows, times can range from 2 to 6 hours. There are multiple options, so please consult with the park staff to find the routes that best fit the time you would like to spend paddling on the water.

Location/Water Access	Canoes	Kayaks (Single)	Kayaks (Double)	Kayaks (Fishing)	Paddle Boats	Paddle Boards	Fishing Boat 16'	Fishing Boat 17'	Pontoon 16'	Fat-tire Bicycles	Transportation Minimum 2-hour Rental
Cross Ranch Missouri River	4	2	2								\$30 for first vehicle \$15 for second vehicle
Fort Ransom Sheyenne River	6	5	1								\$20 for first vehicle \$15 for second vehicle
Fort Stevenson Lake Sakakawea	1	1			1	4	1	1	1	8	
Icelandic Lake Renwick		4	2			6					
Lake Metigoshe Lake Metigoshe	12	2	2								
Lake Sakakawea Lake Sakakawea	2	7			2	2				4	
Lewis & Clark Lake Sakakawea	2	2	1		2						
Pembina Gorge Pembina River	1	20	4	2		2					\$25 from Brick Mine Bridge \$30 from Walhalla

Accept the 2017 Outdoor Challenge

Park visitors have already completed a variety of outdoor challenges, including making a snowman, exploring cross-country ski trails, geocaching, hunting for wildlife tracks, and creating snow angels. But it is not too late to accept the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's (NDPRD) 2017 Outdoor Challenge, which ends December 31.

You are encouraged to get in on the fun with two ways to win. A 2018 NDPRD annual permit will be awarded to the 25 individuals completing the most challenges, and 25 participants will be drawn from all participants who have completed at least six challenges.

Participants are not expected to do all of the challenges but are encouraged to accomplish as many as possible. Individual challenges may pertain to one NDPRD location, a small group of locations or all locations collectively. Participants have anywhere from a weekend to a few months to complete each challenge and can look forward to challenges pertaining to recreational opportunities, special events, interpretive programming, and tours.

"The 2017 challenge has gotten people to visit NDPRD locations they haven't seen before and try new recreational activities. Folks are really enjoying the outdoor challenges



as there is something for everyone," says Amy Schimetz, Outdoor Challenge coordinator.

Those interested in the Outdoor Challenge must "like" the "ND Parks & Rec Outdoor Challenge 2017" Facebook page, accept posted challenges and provide photos via private message to prove completion before the given deadlines. For additional information and official rules, visit the "ND Parks & Rec Outdoor Challenge 2017" Facebook page.

NDPRD Presents 2016 Awards

Cal Renner Award of Excellence

Given annually, the Cal Renner Award of Excellence recognizes an individual, group or business whose efforts have contributed substantially to furthering the goals of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD). The award is named in honor of the late Cal Renner, who served as the department's carpenter from 1987 to 1996.

The 2016 Cal Renner Award was presented to **Bobby Koeplin**, Valley City, N.D. Koeplin's creativity and hard work provided solutions to numerous

challenges, as he worked tirelessly to improve facilities and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. Most notable are his contributions to the installation of electricity for the horse corrals at Fort Ransom State Park; construction of the North Country National Scenic Trail through Fort Ransom State Park and the Sheyenne State Forest; and leadership efforts with the North Dakota Scenic Byway Program and the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway.

Special Merit Awards

The Special Merit Awards are presented to people and organizations outside the NDPRD who go "above and beyond" in support of the agency and its objectives. The 2016 Special Merit Awards were presented as follows:

Corene Vaughn,

Cavalier, N.D., was recognized for her efforts to combine the budgets of three separate committees, in addition to calculating in-kind donations, which resulted in the successful completion of the year-long Metis exhibit and programs at Icelandic State Park.

Mary Ellen Kirking, Cavalier, N.D., was honored for her efforts to develop and exhibit an entire year of the Metis and related programming for the Icelandic State Park Pioneer Heritage Center. Over two years, Kirking researched, planned and coordinated the



Corene Vaughn



Jesse Hanson, NDPRD interim director, Bobby Koeplin, and Matt Gardner, NDPRD recreation division manager.



Mary Ellen Kirking and Jesse Hanson, NDPRD interim director.

efforts of two committees to complete and implement the exhibits.

The **Friends of Fort Lincoln** organization was recognized for its efforts over the last 13 years to raise funds and implement three successful annual events at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park: Halloween in June, Campground Fun Day, and Corn and Frank Fest.

John Sheldon, Nadine Sauter and **Conrad Stearns** with the North Dakota Information Technology Department were honored for their outstanding network tech support. Sheldon addressed the NDPRD's networking concerns and was especially helpful in transitioning the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center to the NDPRD website. Sauter was the main contact in programming the necessary network equipment, as well as securing the park's credit card machines. Stearns was the on-site technician, installing equipment needed and deciphering the complicated copper wiring at the parks.



Lorraine Friesz and Sara Hertz, on behalf of the Friends of Fort Lincoln, Maureen Trnka, FALSP ranger, and Dan Schelske, FALSP manager.



Jesse Hanson, NDPRD interim director, John Sheldon, Nadine Sauter, Conrad Stearns, and Eric Godel, NDPRD IT coordinator.



Jesse Hanson, NDPRD interim director, Sreevani Kandooru, and Eric Godel, NDPRD IT coordinator.

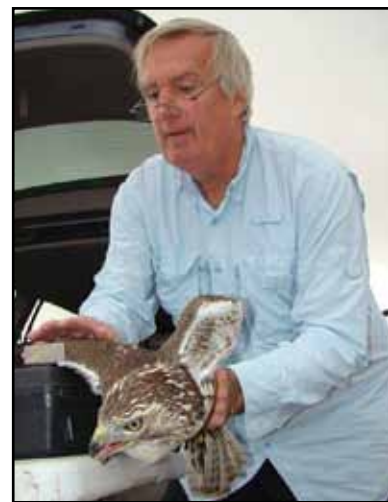


Sherwood Gibbs and wife, Patsy.

Sreevani Kandooru, North Dakota Information Technology Department, was recognized for working tirelessly through the numerous map and system changes needed to bring the online reservation services to all parks. She identified and corrected errors and created specialized queries for the reports needed by park staff.

Sherwood Gibbs, Underwood, N.D., was recognized for his leadership role in raising 16 varieties from the heirloom crops of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and the former Oscar H. Will & Co. of Bismarck in three 16-by-16 foot plots near the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Tim Driscoll, Grand Forks, N.D., was recognized for his efforts over the past 10 years to spearhead the creation of 50 to 60 Eastern Bluebird boxes and



Tim Driscoll

Purple Martin houses each year. He worked tirelessly on Northern Saw-whet Owl and other raptor banding projects and created a comprehensive bird checklist.

Merit Awards

Merit Awards are presented to NDPRD employees who go "above and beyond" in their support of the agency and its objectives.

Al Johnson, Bismarck, N.D., was recognized for his role as Fort Abraham Lincoln's favorite interpreter. His ability to tailor his tour to each audience, providing facts, stories and music, goes above and beyond the normal duties as an interpreter.

Janice Belohlavek, Mandan, N.D., was honored for her more than 50 years of providing quality information, direction and service



Jesse Hanson, NDPRD interim director, Al Johnson, Maureen Trnka, FALSP ranger, and Dan Schelske, FALSP manager.



Jesse Hanson, NDPRD interim director, Janice Belohlavek, Maureen Trnka, FALSP ranger, and Dan Schelske, FALSP manager.

to the general public at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. Steadfast and friendly, she has opened the buildings and gates for the general public without fail.

Congratulation to all our award winners and thank you for your dedication and assistance to the NDPRD.

NDPRD Recognizes Staff



Larry Hagen

The following employees were recognized for their years of service and dedication to the state of North Dakota and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD).

Larry Hagen, manager of Turtle River State Park, was recognized for 35 years of services.

Renaë Gall, NDPRD business manager, received an award for 30 years of service.



Renaë Gall

Jerry Grasl, NDPRD carpenter, was recognized for 20 years of service to the department and is now enjoying his retirement.

Julie Koth-Grabar, NDPRD administrative officer, was honored for 15 years of service.

Michael Duerre, Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area manager; **Ryan Nelson**, Grahams Island State Park ranger; and **Gabe Sattler**, NDPRD carpenter, were recognized for 10 years of service.



Jerry Grasl

Christopher Lee, Lake Metigoshe State Park ranger; **Tyler Modlin**, Fort Ransom State Park manager; and **Pearl Schneider**, administrative assistant, were honored for five years of service.

Travis Brezden, Lake Sakakawea State Park maintenance supervisor; **Matt Schanandore**, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park interpreter; and **Katie Ogden**, Lewis & Clark State Park ranger, were recognized for three years of service.



Jesse Hanson

Promotions and New Employees

Jesse Hanson was promoted to the position of field manager, vacated by the retirement of Brad Pozarnsky last fall. In December, he took on additional duties as the NDPRD interim director.

Derrick Swedlund was hired as maintenance supervisor at Lake Metigoshe State Park. He replaces Carl Laframbois, who resigned in February.



Derrick Swedlund

Snowmobile North Dakota Winter Recap

The 2016-2017 winter season came to a close with geese flying over in a seemingly endless stream. Snowmobile North Dakota (SND) and clubs across the state received a much needed boost in moral thanks to a decent snow year. Clubs have struggled through lean years, so it makes all the volunteer hours worth it when trails can be open and groomed.

SND was able to groom trails in 12 of its 13 trail systems, though the systems north of a line from Bismarck to Grand Forks were the ones open most of the winter. Some areas had so much snow early in the season that operators were challenged to avoid burying the groomers. Ice conditions, due to heavy snow before much cold weather, were very poor in much of the state. Many trails were routed around lakes and sloughs for safety.

This was the first season SND was able to test the GPS tracking systems and software that were recently installed in all the state groomers. Using the new system, SND was able to track when and where a trail had been groomed and supply a link to the public showing this information. This link was located on the SND website at www.snowmobilend.org and also its Facebook page. The public link has a reporting delay built in so the trails had a chance to set up properly before being used. This is a very useful tool for keeping track of the grooming of the 2,800 miles of trail.

The state ride was held in Rugby in February and, for the first time in a few years, participants were actually able to ride. Many riders participated using the trails maintained by the Northern Lights Trailblazers from the Rugby area. It is fun to see all the hard work put forward by volunteers across the state when the trails are able to be utilized.

2017 Order Form

North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit

The 2017 Annual Vehicle Permit for North Dakota state parks can be ordered by mail at a cost of \$25 each. ND residents ages 65 and older can receive a discount price of \$20. Permits are ideal for gift giving! Make checks or money orders payable to the ND Parks and Recreation Department and mail to:

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Quantity	Cost	Total
_____ 2017 annual permit	\$25/each	\$ _____
_____ ND resident 65 and older	\$20/each	\$ _____
Date of birth required for senior discount		
	DOB _____	
_____	Number of gift envelopes	

If permit is given as a gift, please provide the permit holder's above information.

Disabled veterans and former POWs must apply in person at parks or Bismarck office to receive special discount.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation encourages the use of its website www.parkrec.nd.gov for the purchase of Annual Vehicle Permits. Secure sales can be made through either credit or debit card online.



North Dakota Parks and
Recreation Department
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #386
BISMARCK, ND
ZIP CODE 58504